



German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence  
for Public Policy and Good Governance  
CPG

# CPG

# Online Newsletter

Issue 1, 2015



THAMMASAT  
UNIVERSITY



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# Dear Readers, Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Online Newsletter of the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG). Starting with this first issue, the purpose of the newsletter is to report about our Center's work, but also to inform about events and activities of other institutions related to CPG or to the focal areas of CPG's work as academic institute and think tank focused on comparative constitutional law, international human rights protection, national and regional security law and policy as well as regional integration.

Recently we have been celebrating CPG's fifth anniversary and the extension of our funding for the years ahead. After having been selected as one of four Centers of Excellence to be funded by the German Foreign Ministry and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) mid 2009 – the other awarded projects are located in Russia, Chile and Columbia –, CPG started to work in November 2009 as a joint institute of the German Universities of Frankfurt, Münster, and Passau and Thammasat University in Thailand with a regional focus on Southeast-Asia and pursuing an interdisciplinary approach.

Looking back, working in Thailand during these five years has always been most pleasant in any respect for us. All established contacts with friends and partners in Thailand, be it in the academia, the civil society or among the state institutions are smooth, productive and enriching in any respect. When there have been political turmoil, a major flood, or the state of emergency declared, this affected our work less than it would have been the case in any other country I can imagine. Even under martial law still being in force, we are able to continue our work unhindered and the necessary cooperation with security officials has been polite and constructive.

Besides the general working environment in Thailand, CPG enjoys to be hosted by Thailand's first and best Faculty of Law. Numerous events with Thammasat's Faculty of Law from conferences and seminars to our annual Winter School on Human Rights reflect the importance of our location for the work of the last five years.

Under these favorable conditions, after its implementation in 2009 CPG from 2010-2014 has organized **more than 120 public events** covering conferences, seminars and workshops, guest and special lectures, as well as spring, summer and winter academies. In arranging these events we have been fortunate to have received support of nearly **600 speakers and contributions** from **more than 30** countries across five continents coming from academic institutions, state agencies, the diplomatic corps, international organizations, civil society institutions, and the private sector. We have organized numerous other activities in terms of research and teaching, human capacity building and professional training, consultancy and expertise, project assessment/development and expert brokering. Last but not least CPG provided also numerous scholarships to students, professionals and scholars who are contributing to our network in various ways.

Most important, all these numbers and activities stand for the establishment of a vibrant community of friends and partners which has steadily developed and deepened over the years through trustful co-operation. It is very much this network of friendship and trust which builds the fundament of CPG's achievements.

I very much thank our friends and partners, the associated scholars and the staff of Thammasat and CPG, our funders and supporters and hope to continue our collaboration in the coming year 2015 and beyond.

Have a very happy, healthy and successful New Year 2015!

## Henning Glaser

Director

German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence  
for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG),  
Faculty of Law, Thammasat University







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# **EVENTS**

**OCT.- NOV.- DEC.**

**2014**



# International conference

## “The Emergence, Reproduction and Hegemonization of and by Human Rights Regimes – Interdisciplinary Perspectives”

28th-29th December 2014

lebu at State Tower, Bangkok, Thailand

The international conference “The Emergence, Reproduction and Hegemonization of and by Human Rights Regimes – Interdisciplinary Perspectives” on 28th-29th December 2014 at lebu at State Tower Hotel concluded an eventful year with more than 20 public events. The event provided a platform for critical perspectives on the relationship between human rights regimes and competing normative orders and regimes as well as on the question in how far human rights themselves are subject to the construction of hegemonic regimes questioning their very own normative substance and claims. The conference assembled ten scholars and human rights practitioners from eight countries (Australia, India, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, USA) and from a variety of scientific disciplines including law, political science, international relations, philosophy, as well as language and area studies enabling a highly inter-regional and inter-



disciplinary exchange of critical perspectives. Among the speakers were: *Dr. Claudio Corradetti*, PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimacy of Judiciary in the Global Order, University of Oslo, *Dr. Giorgio Shani*, Politics and International Relations, International Christian University, *Prof. Tony Evans*, Faculty of Social Science, University of Winchester, *Prof. Terry Nardin*, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore, *Dr. Heloise Weber*, School of Political Science and International Relations, The University of Queensland, *Dr. Olivia Rutazibwa*, School of Language and Area Studies, University of Portsmouth, *Prof. Sankaran Krishna*, Department of Political Science, University of Hawai'i Manoa, *New Sin Yew*, Bon Advocates, *M Ravi*, M Ravi Practice, L F Violet Netto.

## CPG Alumni Seminar on the occasion of “25 Years Fall of the Berlin Wall”

26th December 2014,

Kwanchitr Restaurant, Bangkok, Thailand

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall the Berlin Wall and to bring some of our alumni, partner and friends together CPG arranged the alumni seminar “25 Years Fall of the Berlin Wall” on 26th December 2014. The event saw presentations on the historical background, border management and breakdown of the Berlin Wall.



## Workshop Pattani

13th-14th December 2014

CS Pattani Hotel , Patani,  
Thailand

On the 13th-14th December 2014 CPG together with Hanns Seidel Foundation

Thailand/Laos organized a workshop for local NGOs in Thailand's Southernmost

Border Provinces in Pattani continuing our longstanding engagement in the region. CPG also participated in a workshop of a local NGO.

## **International**

## **Workshop**

### **“Legal Framework and Practices of Corrections and Investigative Detention – National and Comparative Perspectives”**

11th-12th December 2014

SD Avenue Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



Continuing previous conferences earlier this year on the “Legal Harmonization and Cooperation in Criminal Matters in ASEAN – Arrest, Detention, Extradition”, “Tackling Torture – OPCAT from Southeast Asian Perspectives”, and “Investigative Detention in Thailand”, the international workshop “Legal Framework and Practices of Corrections and Investigative Detention – National and Comparative Perspectives”, organized in cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation on 11th-12th December 2014 at SD Avenue Hotel Bangkok, was the fourth in CPG’s sequel of events pertaining to issues in the intersection of criminal law and human rights. The event was arranged as a moderated and structured closed roundtable to discuss six selected core issues concerning national laws and practices of investigative detention and arrest: forms of detentions in national laws; organization and management of detention and imprisonment; monitoring and inspection mechanisms of detention; remedies against rights violations in detention; pardon, early prison release, amnesty; and challenges and prospects of ASEAN standards in detention law. More than 20 participants coming from academic institutions, state and law enforcement agencies from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand engaged in multi-disciplinary discussions. The workshop was concluded with the firm decision among the participants to further follow ups.





## 70th Anniversary of Viet Nam People's Army

10th December 2014

Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of Viet Nam People's Army HE. Nguyen Tat Thanh, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Kingdom of Thailand, and Defence Attache Sr. Col. Dang Thanh Tien invited to celebrate the auspicious event at a reception on 10th December at Dusit Thani Hotel Bangkok which was also joined by representatives of CPG. More than 300 guests attended this festive event. Among the guests was a delegation of the Thai Government led by Deputy Prime Minister Yongyuth Yuthavong and Minister for Science and Technology Pichet Durongkaveroj as well as many Military and Defence Attaches from other embassies. In his opening words Ambassador Nguyen draw the attention of the guests on the impressive historical background of the Viet Nam People's Army developing from a small unit of 34 members under the legendary later General Ngo Vien Giap fighting the French colonizers since 1946 into a

modern equipped and ASEAN-embedded strong army with 450,000-active forces and five million reserve personnel.



# **International Human Right and Thailand's Constitution Day**

10th December 2014

Two other anniversaries marking the 10th December have been the Human Rights Day commemorating the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10th December 1948 and Thailand's Constitution Day commemorating the promulgation of Thailand's second constitution on the 10th December 1932. While CPG's fifth annual conference on "Constitutional Moments, Turning Points and Legacies in the Formation of Political Communities in Historical Perspectives" on 28th-30th November 2014 has been dedicated to the Constitution Day, a number of events have been dedicated to the Human Rights Day as well, among them two workshops, one on "Legal Framework and Practices of Corrections and Investigative Detention – National and Comparative Perspectives" on 11th-12th December and another one in the Thailand's Southernmost Border Provinces in Pattani, and an international conference on "The Emergence, Reproduction and Hegemonization of and by Human Rights Regimes – Interdisciplinary Perspectives" on 28th-29th December.



# CPG Presentation at the Seminar

## “On the Path to Reform”

3rd December 2014

Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

On invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Director Henning Glaser participated as a panelist speaker in the international seminar “On the Path to Reform” held on 3 December 2014 at Sheraton Hotel Bangkok. He contributed with a presentation on the topic of “Local Governance in Germany – (Deep-) Structure and Impact” in which he gave an overview of the historical roots and current system of local governance in Germany. Against the background of the current reform process in Thailand the event served to gather experiences from other countries on selected core issues of reform and to draw on them as references for the formulation of reform policies by the Thai government. For this purpose the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand had invited 10 foreign experts for three panels pertaining to the topics “Political Reform”, “Public Administration”, and “Local Government” respectively. Among them were **Dr. Allen D. Hicken** from the Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA, **Professor José Francisco Pavia** from Lusíada University, Lisbon, Portugal, and **Dr. Michael Vatikiotis**, Regional Director for Asia, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, only to mention a few of them. Before more than 200 participants from all relevant ministries and state agencies the seminar was opened by welcoming words, statements, and keynotes by **HE. General Tanasak Patimapragorn**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, **Prof. Pornpetch Wichitcholchai**, President of the National Legislative Assembly, **Dr. Thienchay Kiranandana**, President of the National Reform Council, and **Martin Chungong**, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) who also gave closing remarks next to **Borwornsak Uwanno**, Vice President of National Reform Council and Chair of the Constitution Drafting Committee.

# CPG German language class evaluation meeting

3rd December 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

On 3rd December 2014 instructors of CPG's German language classes met representatives of CPG to review and evaluate the classes of the first term of the academic year 2014/2015 and to discuss the organization of classes for the subsequent term.



## International Seminar

**“Good Human Rights Governance – The Issue of Torture”**

1st December 2014, SD

Avenue Hotel, Bangkok,  
Thailand

In the framework of its MoU with the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), CPG arranged in cooperation with Hanns Seidel Foundation the international seminar “Good Human Rights Governance – The Issue of Torture” for special case officers of the DSI on 1st December 2014 at SD Avenue Hotel Bangkok. Subject of the seminar has been international standards of torture prevention and their impacts on national laws and practices. The keynote on “OPCAT – Core Provisions and the German Experience” was delivered by **Prof. Dr. Robert Esser**,

Director of the Research Center “Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings” at the Faculty of Law of Passau University – one of CPG’s German founding universities. The following presentations have been made by **Dr. Sabine Carl**, CPG, on “Implementing National Preventative Mechanisms under OPCAT – The UK Experience”, **Nutta Vasantasingh**, Foreign Ministry of Thailand, on “Obligations of Thai State Agencies Following CAT” and **Pornpen Khongkachonkiet**, Director of the NGO Cross-Cultural Foundation on “Implementing CAT in Thailand – Issues and Challenges”. Throughout the seminar, the DSI officers engaged in active participation in the Q & A sessions and contributed to a successful event.

## CPG Fifth Annual Conference

### “Constitutional Moments, Turning Points and Legacies in the Formation of Political Communities in Historical Perspectives”

28th-30th November 2014

lebu at State Tower Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Under the title “Constitutional Moments, Turning Points and Legacies in the Formation of Political Communities in Historical Perspectives” CPG’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference was held from 28th-30th November 2014 at lebu at State Tower Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. Theme of the conference were path-breaking moments of a country’s constitutional history and their impacts for the further development of the newly established political order. The conference assembled 13 presentations on 11 countries (Germany, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Iraq, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea) and the European Union delivered by 12 scholars and one Constitutional Court Judge.





The conference was opened on 28th November in a festive ceremony at the top roof dome on the 67<sup>th</sup> floor of lebua at State Tower Hotel to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CPG. Following the welcoming words delivered by **Dr. Peer Gebauer**, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy Bangkok, **Assist. Prof. Dr. Prinya Thaewanarumitkul**, Vice-Rector of Thammasat University, **Prof. Dr. Dirk Ehlers**, representative of the German Universities forming CPG (Frankfurt, Münster, Passau) and **Henning Glaser**, Director of CPG, friends and partners contributing in an outstanding way to the work of CPG were presented a token of appreciation. Among them were: for the Supreme Administrative Court **Dr. Kasem Comsatyadham**, Vice-President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Thailand, **Suwanna Suwanjutha**, Director General of the Department of Special Investigation of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, **Pol. Gen. Lt. Suthin Khiewrat**, former commander of the Border Patrol Police, **Karl-Peter Schoenfisch**, Director of the Thailand/Laos Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, **Prof. Dr. Boonsri Mewongukote**, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Dr. Warawit Kanithasen**, CPG Senior Research Fellow, **Dr. Michael Nelson**, CPG Research Fellow, for the National Strategy Development Center **Maj.-Gen. Srisaran Dhiradhamrong**, Deputy Director of the National Strategy Development Center, **Lt. Col. Doan Quang Thuong**, Deputy Defence Attaché of the Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand, **Suttikul Jungodumsuk**, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Hon. Slavica Banic**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia and **Prof. Andreas Follesdal**, Director of the PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimacy of the Judiciary in the Global Order, University of Oslo.





Following the opening on 28th November, the first academic day on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, saw six presentations on four European countries and the European Union. **Prof. Dr. Ingwer Ebsen**, Faculty of Law of Goethe University Frankfurt, opened the papers presenting on the structural and institutional legacies of the November Revolution of 1918 for the Weimar Republic, the first German republic. **Prof. Dr. Dirk Ehlers**, Faculty of Law of Westfälische Wilhelms University Münster, continued with a presentation on the topic of constitutional law and process in Germany after the Second World War. **Hon. Slavica Banic**, Justice of Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, presented then about the political and institutional legacies of former Yugoslavia in Croatia, followed by **Prof. Dr. Andras Bozoki**, Department of Political Science, Central European University, who gave a pessimistic assessment of the constitutional development since the collapse of the Communists regime in the light of recent authoritarian tendencies in Hungary. Subsequently, **Prof. Dr. Alberto Vespaziani**, Faculty of Law, University of Molise, gave a talk on the counter-hegemonic conceptions of federalism in Italy's constitutional and political history before **Prof. Andreas Follesdal**, Director of the PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimacy of the Global Judiciary, University of Oslo, completed the presentations of the day with theoretical reflections on how to assess or interpret events and developments as constitutional moments of international law within the European Union.

The second conference day comprised seven papers on seven Asian countries. **Dr. Fanar Haddad**, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore, started with a contribution on the structural challenges and problems of the quest for a political community and national identity in Iraq since the foundation of the state in 1921. Subsequently, **Dr. Ronojoy Sen**, Institute for South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, presented on the decisive Constitutional

Assembly of 1946 and its impacts on the further development of India up to the present. The third paper was given by Assist. Prof. **Arun Kumar Thiruvengadam**, Faculty of Law, National University Singapore. His presentation dealt with cause lawyering and human rights advocacy work as a symbol for a nascent constitutional moment highlighting the potential to challenge the current political system in Singapore. Besides Singapore, two further Southeast Asian countries – Malaysia and Indonesia – were subject of presentations, both given by to scholars from Australia. **Prof. HP Lee** from Monash University discussed critical constitutional moments within the process of nation and state building in Malaysia since the end of the Second World War. Prof. Lee was followed by **Dr. Nadirsyah Hosen** from the Faculty of Law of Wollongong University whose paper centered on the constitutionalization and democratization of the Indonesian polity since 1997. Moving further East, two presentations on Japan and South Korea completed the presentations. Art. 9 of Japan's constitution prohibiting Japan to use war as a means to settle international disputes and restricting Japan to maintain only self-defense forces was subject of **Prof. Dr. Nobuyuki Sato** from the Law School of Chuo University. Prof. Sato reflected on this article in the light of the methods of constitutional law interpretation and their political ramifications in Japan. In the final paper of the conference **Prof. Dr. Doowon Suh**, a sociologist from Graduate School of International Studies of Korea University, dealt with the decisive moment of the democratic transition in 1987 and pointed out the problem of decreasing support for democratic procedures and institutions among the population in Korea since then.

Every panel was supported by discussants including **Dr. Warawit Kanithasen**, CPG Senior Research Fellow, **Natthanicha Lephilibert**, **Yordchatr Tasarika**, both Office of the Council of State of Thailand, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Allen Hicken**, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, **Henning Glaser**, CPG Director, **Dr. Michael Nelson**, CPG Research Fellow, and **Dr. Duc Quang Ly**, CPG Project Manager.





# CPG Third Winter School “Human Rights”

24th-28th November 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

CPG’s Third Winter School on the topic of “Human Rights” was arranged on 24th-28th in co-operation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Jember, Indonesia, and supported by the Research Center “Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings” at the Faculty of Law of Passau and PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimacy of the Judiciary in the Global Order, University of Oslo, Norway.



A one-week intensive course, the Winter School provided comprehensive and in-depth knowledge on fundamental questions and current issues of human rights in theory and practice, such as the theory of human rights, international law and constitutional law, regional and international human right regimes, the work of international, state and non-state institutions/organizations, as well as various issues concerning the protection of human rights like human rights in criminal proceedings, migration and human trafficking. Internationally recognized scholars as well as human rights advocates and practitioners representing a wide range of universities and academic institutions, state agencies, international organizations and NGOs contributed to a highly interdisciplinary and varied academic program comprising all in all 20 lectures and presentations. Among the contributors were CPG Director **Henning Glaser**, Prof. Dr. **Widodo Ekatjahjana**, Dean of the Faculty of Law of the co-hosting University of Jember, Prof. Dr. **Amara**

**Pongsapich**, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gothom Arya**, Institute for Human Rights and Peace Studies of Mahidol University, **Prof. Dr. Prasit Aekaputra**, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Huachiew Chalermprakiet University, **Prof. Dr. Dirk Ehlers**, Faculty of Law, Westfälische Wilhelms University Münster, **Prof. Dr. Ingwer Ebsen**, Faculty of Law, Goethe University Frankfurt a. M., **Prof. Andreas Føllesdal**, Director of the PluriCourts Centre for the Study of the Legitimacy of the Global Judiciary, University of Oslo, **Hon. Slavica Banic**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, **Prof. Dr. Robert Esser**, Director of the Research Center “Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings”, Faculty of Law, Passau University, **Assist. Prof. Dr. Pokpong Srisanit**, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Wong Kai Shing**, Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University, **Pokpong Lawansiri**, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bangkok Regional Office, **Sally James**, International Organization for Migration (IOM), **Alan Pelce**, International Labour Organization (ILO), **Paisith Sungkahapong**, Department of Special Investigation, Ministry of Justice of Thailand, **Veerawit Tianchainan**, Director of the Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation, **Angkhana Neelapaijit**, Chairperson of the Justice for Peace Foundation, **Pornpen Khongkachonkiet**, Director of the Cross Cultural Foundation, and **Pimsiri Petchnamrob** from Forum Asia.

The academic program was complemented by a cultural field trip to the historical site of Kanchanaburi where the legendary “Bridge over the River Kwai” is located. Most of the more than 50 participants – among them undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students as well as lecturers and legal professionals – also took the opportunity to attend CPG’s 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference “Constitutional Moments, Turning Points and Legacies in the Formation of Political Communities in Historical Perspectives” at the weekend directly following the Winter School.



# International Colloquium “75 Years Second World War – European and Thai Experiences”

15th November 2014, Swissôtel Park Nai Lert, Bangkok, Thailand

Commemorating the outbreak of the Second World War 75 years ago the Thai-German Society Thailand, the Faculty of Political Science of Chulalongkorn University, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and CPG co-hosted the international conference “75 Years Second World War – European and Thai Experiences” on 15th November 2014 at Swissotel Park Nai Lert Bangkok. The event dealt with various aspects pertaining to the historical and cultural causes and conditions of the Second World War, its impacts on the post-war international order as well as the perception and impact of the war in and on Thailand. The list of contributors and their respective institutional affiliation include keynote speaker **Prof. Dr. Dominik Geppert**, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaft, University of Bonn, **Associate Prof. Thanet Wongyannava**, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University, **Assistant Prof. Dr. Kittisak Prokati**, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Dr. Duc Quang Ly**, German-Southeast Asian Centre of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG), Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Prof. Dr. Pornsan Watanangura**, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, **Pradap Pibulsongkram**, former Thai Ambassador to Italy and Switzerland, **Associate Prof. Dr. Panitan Wattanayakorn** and **Dr. Kasira Cheeppensook**, both coming from the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University.





# **Discussion meeting with Dr. Robert Weber, Minister, Inspector of the Federal Foreign Office**

13th November 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

On 13th November 2014 Minister Dr. Robert Weber, Inspector of the German Foreign Minister, met Director Henning Glaser for a discussion on current issues and developments of governance in Thailand and Asia.



## **Visit of a delegation of the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok at CPG**

13 November 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

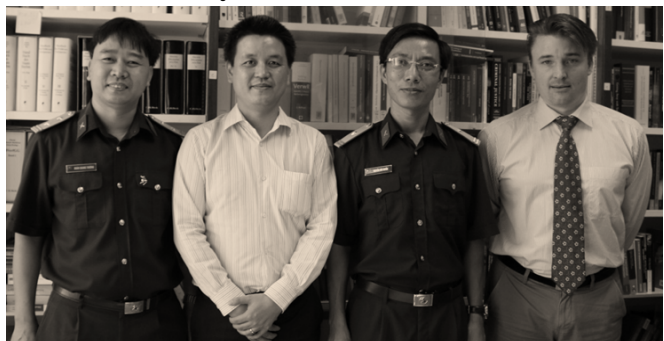
On 13th November a delegation of the Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand led by Lt. Col. Doan Quang Thuong visited CPG to discuss possibilities of future cooperation.

## Visit of National Resilience Center from the Republic of Indonesia

11th November 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

A delegation of the National Resilience Institute (NRI) of the Republic of Indonesia visited CPG on Tuesday, 11 November 2014. The NRI is a non-governmental academic institution and think tank which is directly subordinated and responsible to the Indonesian President. Established in 1965 as an institution contributing to the strengthening of national integration in Indonesia, the main functions of NRI include to advise the President in policy matters and to educate and to train future national leaders, furthermore to develop cooperation with relevant agencies in Indonesia and abroad in order to support the fulfillment of the educational tasks. The purpose of the visit was to exchange ideas of possible areas of cooperation between NRI and CPG. The conversation was highly constructive and was concluded with the firm decision to launch a co-operation. The delegation was led by Rear Admiral Wardiyono Suwaryo, and completed by 1<sup>st</sup> Admiral Estu Prabowo (Head of the Public Relations Bureau), Edy Rusminandar (Head of the Bureau of External Relations) and Mrs. Yusita (Officer, Public Relations Bureau) as well as First Secretary Meinarti Fauzie and Maj. I. Rozikin, Assistant to Defense Attaché, of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia.







## International Conference

# “Legal Harmonization and Cooperation in Criminal Matters in ASEAN – Arrest, Detention, Extradition”

30th-31st October 2014

Ramada D'MA, Bangkok, Thailand

In co-operation with Hanns Seidel Foundation CPG arranged the international Conference “**Legal Harmonization and Cooperation in Criminal Matters in ASEAN – Arrest, Detention, Extradition**” on 30th-31st October 2014. The conference provided a platform for exchange and discussion among scholars, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police and practitioners from various Southeast Asian countries on the legal framework and practices of pretrial detention in the ASEAN member state and regional cooperation in criminal matters.

Not less than 17 speakers from six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam) could be attracted to contribute to this event



enabling a high amount of input of information and expertise, a highly diversified and fruitful exchange of experiences and a platform for networking. Representing the academia, state agencies and law enforcement bodies, international organizations, bar associations and law firms the speakers were CPG **Assist. Prof. Dr. Pokpong Srisanit**, Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, **Police Colonel Songsak Raksaksakul**, Director, Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Transnational Crime, Department of Special Investigation, Ministry of Justice of Thailand, **Renan E. Ramos**, Assistant Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, The Philippines, **Justice Josue N. Bellosillo**, Retired Senior Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Dean, Centro Escolar University, School of Law and Jurisprudence, **Dr. Farah Nini Binti Dusuki**, Faculty of Law, University of Malaya, **Salim bin Bashir Bhaskaran**, Council Member, The Malaysian Bar Association, **Supt. S. Shanmugamoorthy A/L Chinniah**, International Affairs/Special Investigations, Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysia Police, **Choo Zheng Xi**, Director, Peter Low LLC, Advocates and Solicitors, Singapore, **Police Senior Superintendent Eko Rudi Sudarto**, Senior Policy Analyst, International Relations Division, Indonesian National Police, **Brian Pearce**, Legal Attaché, Department of Justice, US Embassy Bangkok, CPG Director **Henning Glaser**, **Dr. Kanpirom Komalarajun**, Pridi Banomyong Faculty of Law, Dhurakij Pundit University, **Wanchai Roujanavong**, Director General, International Affairs Department, Office of the Attorney General, Thailand, **Datuk Sivananthan Nithyanantham**, Vice-President, International Criminal Bar, **Shashi Nathan**, Partner, KhattarWong LLP, Singapore, **Narendra Jatna**, Attorney Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia Bangkok, **Dang Cam Hanh**, Deputy Head of Division for International Laws and Treaties, Department for Legal Affairs and Justice and Administration Reform, Ministry of Security, Viet Nam. This event was organized within the framework of CPG's event sequel dealing with the issues in the intersection of criminal law and human rights. Previous events this year included the conference "Investigative Detention in Thailand" in May 2014 and "Tackling Torture – OPCAT from Southeast Asian Perspectives" in September 2014.



# **Discussion Meeting with the Political Counsellor of the German Embassy**

21st October 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

On 21st October 2014 Sonja Gebauer, Political Counsellor of the German Embassy in Thailand, met with Director Henning Glaser at the Faculty of Law to exchange on current issues and developments of Thai governance and to discuss possibilities of future co-operation between the German Embassy and CPG.

# **Visit of the Danish Ambassador at CPG**

20th October 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

On 20 October 2014 HE. Mikael Hemniti Winther, Danish Ambassador to Thailand, visited CPG and engaged with Director Henning Glaser in an exchange of current issue of European and Asian educational policy.



# **TestAS at CPG**

18th October 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University

On 18th October 2014 CPG held the third of three TestAS in 2014. TestAS is a central standardized academic aptitude test for non-German students. It provides test-takers who consider studying at a German university information about their ranking in comparison with other applicants. TestAs is offered by the German Society for Academic Study Preparation and Test Development. CPG has been TestAS Center since 2011.



## **CPG Presentation at the Heads of Mission Meeting of the EU Delegation to Thailand**

17th October 2014

Kian Gwan House II, Bangkok, Thailand

Invited by the European Union Delegation to speak before European ambassadors at the monthly held Head of Missions Meeting of the EU Delegation, Director

Henning Glaser gave a presentation on various issues of constitutional and political reform in Thailand.

# CPG Expert Dialogue Forum on Peace, Stability, and Development in Asia “Conflict Management in ASEAN – Current Concerns and Future Perspectives”

13th October 2014

Faculty of Law, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand

In the frame of CPG’s Expert Dialogue Forum on Peace, Stability and Development in Asia CPG arranged a seminar on “**Conflict Management in ASEAN – Current Concerns and Future Perspectives**” on 13th October 2014. The event dealt with structural, institutional and political conditions of the management and resolution of inter-state conflicts within Southeast Asia. In his keynote **Assoc. Prof. Ramses Amer** from the Swedish Institute for Security and Development Policy elaborated this topic along the example of the South China Conflict, stressing the necessity of intact formal institutional channels and mechanisms of dialogue and negotiation as pre-conditions for effective conflict resolution. Two Thai experts, **former Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya** and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Prapat Thepchatree**, Director of the Center for ASEAN Studies of Thammasat University, responded to Prof. Amer’s keynote with presentations underscoring the importance of taking into account the “ASEAN way” of informal communication culture and consensus building among ASEAN member states as conflict resolution strategies. Subsequent to the presentations a lively discussion among all participants completed the event.





# **Reception of the Department of Special Investigation, Ministry of Justice of Thailand**

3rd October 2014

Centra Government Complex Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

On invitation of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, CPG Director Henning Glaser and Project Manager Duc Quang Ly attended a reception, hosted by Pol. Gen. Chatchawal Suksomjit, Director General of the DSI, on 3 October 2014 at Centra Government Complex Hotel. The reception was held on the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DSI which is a special investigative agency within the Ministry of Thailand in charge of investigating “special” criminal cases, covering cases effecting national security, cases in which criminal organized organizations are involved, and cases with the potential to implicate high-ranking government official and police officers. It is comparable to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

# **Reception on the occasion of the National Day of Germany**

2nd October 2014

Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

On the occasion of the National Day of Germany Ambassador Rolf Schulze hosted a reception on 2nd October 2014 at Mandarin Oriental Hotel. In his opening words he highlighted the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.



# CPG partner institutions - The University of Passau

The University of Passau is one of the three German universities forming CPG together with Thammasat University. It opened its doors in 1978 and has quickly developed into a first address in German academia. The University regularly attains top positions in academic rankings, e.g. in Law, Business and Economics, Computer Science, Communication Studies, Political Science and Cultural Studies. Its attractiveness is also attributed to its environment. The City of Passau is one of Germany's loveliest and safest cities situated at the confluence of the rivers Danube, Inn and Ilz and displaying a sort of Italian fair.

The University of Passau is constantly working on becoming more international. Since the winter semester 2013/14 the Law Faculty offers a new and unique study programme leading to the Certificate of Studies in European, Comparative and International Law (CECIL).

**CECIL** is a fully English taught programme which enables students to gain in-depth knowledge of European, Comparative and International Law and train their transferable skills such as Academic Legal Writing and Legal Presentation.

**CECIL** can be commenced either in winter or summer semester and can be studied for one, two or more semesters. The University of Passau offers a Minor Certificate (20 ECTS) with one compulsory skills seminar or a Major Certificate (40 ECTS) with two compulsory skills seminars.

Furthermore, the University offers a great range of high-quality language courses in Chinese, English, French, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Czech. These German-as-a-foreign-language programmes are designed to give international students the chance to learn German from scratch and obtain the language proficiency required to study at the University.

# Alumni report: Law studies in Germany

I first arrived in Germany five years ago, as a student motivated to spend his summer vacation to learn German. Everything was new and different from where I came - my beloved home country Thailand. Frankly speaking, I have to admit that Germany is since then my second home and, consequently, the German worldview is also my second worldview. Here we learn, and we must learn how to think analytically and systematically, to be open for the others' opinions, to respect the others both physically and mentally and, simultaneously, to be confident of ourselves and our personal identity.

True to the fact one might say that Germany is the land of freedom and opportunities. This also applies to the education. As a foreign student here you find no discrimination (and of course no privilege) compared to German students. More importantly, many universities and academic institutions nowadays offer several international courses and study-programs. There are some degrees which still require intermediate German language proficiency, however. Law study is one of those subjects. Fortunately, we in Thailand have enormous support with regard to the preparation for further studies in Germany. In language perspective we have the *Goethe-Institut* located in Bangkok for those who would like to learn German as their second or third language. For financial support and advices as to the preparation we have the *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst* or DAAD for outstanding students who would like to apply for the scholarships. And recently, we have the *German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance* (CPG) at Thammasat University, which is not only the youngest but also the most active and efficient center for those who seek academic advice and cooperation between Germany and Thailand, including a scholarship for Master studies in Germany, which I have been granted in 2012 along with a German language class scholarship for law students. With helpful support from these organizations, students who have a potential and an endeavor to pursue their academic success in Germany truly have chance and opportunity to chase their dreams.

For studying in Germany one needs of course, as mentioned above, some knowledge in German language depending on his or her subject or degree. For

many students, the preparation for German language seems to be an almost insurmountable obstacle. This is not quite correct from my perspective. The German language is not too difficult for those who learn it properly. All we need to obtain is only the courage to use the language we are learning naturally and without fear of failure. You may need more than ten years to be able to use the language as a native speakers, but usually you only need a year to be able to use the language well enough for your studying, which is worth to spend your time and effort to do so. After those years of preparation, you will get yourself a key which can be used to open a door to something new, the door to German intelligence and collective consciousness. Behind this door there is in fact infinite opportunities waiting for you. Those who seek intelligent knowledge and an excellent way of thinking in order to improve their mentality may recognize for the first time, as I experienced myself many years ago, that heaven is a place on earth.

**Thossaporn Saensawatt,**  
LL.M Passau, BA Law Thammasat,  
PH.D student (DAAD scholarship)





# **Development Cooperation Institutions’ Profiles: The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**

## **The DAAD – Your Partner in Research and Development**

Internationality is the core competence of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). As a self-administered organisation representing Germany’s higher education institutions and their student bodies, the DAAD is the world’s largest funding organisation in the field of international academic exchange. Since it was established in 1925, the DAAD has provided support to over 1.9 million academics in Germany and abroad.

Since the 1950s with the introduction of German language lecturers and scholarships, the DAAD has strongly supported academic exchange between Thailand and Germany. The DAAD Information Centre in Bangkok was established in 1999 to promote study and research at German universities and to provide free and comprehensive service to students, graduates and researchers. The DAAD regularly organises alumni events in Thailand, at which it fosters close contact with some 1,500 DAAD alumni who have gained some part of their education at German universities.

## **Scholarships for the Best**

The DAAD is known for its scholarship programmes which allow German and international students to study or conduct independently-organised research at universities and research institutes worldwide. In the area of research, the DAAD not only funds talented individuals in international research teams, but also supports mobility in academic cooperation projects. With its structural measures – such as the establishment of international PhD programmes or binational groups of junior researchers at universities and research institutes – the DAAD helps intensify cooperation with the world’s top researchers, thereby helping to internationalise research in Germany.

In 2013 alone, funding provided by the DAAD enabled 563 Thais to study and conduct research in Germany, and facilitated academic exchange for 261 Germans in Thailand. Moreover, the DAAD awards so-called “Sur Place” scholarships to applicants of degree programmes at Mahidol and Kasetsart Universities as well as the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok for candidates from Southeast Asia. Most of these programmes have been running for over forty years, producing a total of some 700 graduates to this day.

In addition to open-topic funding programmes aimed particularly at giving young researchers additional academic qualifications, the DAAD has expanded its portfolio in recent years to include theme-based funding programmes. These programmes are intended to specifically promote those topics which contribute to resolving key social and global issues (e.g. climate change). The central focus of these programmes is always on young scholars wishing to apply their specialist expertise to research projects and in collaboration with international experts.

The DAAD’s scholarship programmes for Thailand comprise a broad scope of funding measures: individual and structural, open-topic and theme-based. While the scholarships for doctoral research, research stays, internships and re-invitation of alumni are open to all disciplines, the DAAD also supports special degree programmes in important areas such as development-related postgraduate courses, master’s degrees in public policy and good governance, and in sustainable water management. Thus, the DAAD makes an important contribution not only to scientific progress in general, but also to subjects which play an especially vital role in developing countries.

### **Structures and Knowledge for International Cooperation**

However, awarding scholarships is just one facet in a wide spectrum. The DAAD promotes the internationalisation of German higher education, strengthens German language and literature studies abroad, and works together with developing countries and emerging economies to establish higher education institutions. With more than 250 programmes, the DAAD supports about 74,000 Germans and foreigners each year, as well as institutions in Germany and around the world.

The institutional programmes range from fact-finding missions to the establishment of higher education institutions abroad. The DAAD supports the

international activities of German higher education institutions with marketing services, publications, events and professional training, advice and support, as well as with programmes aimed at enhancing the internationalisation and global attractiveness of German higher education institutions. Finally, the DAAD acts in an advisory capacity in the development of foreign cultural and educational policy, international higher education policy and development policy.

A number of outstanding institutions in Thailand have received structural funding from the DAAD including the Sirindhorn International Thai-German Graduate School of Engineering at King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok and the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance, a joint institute of Thammasat University and the University of Frankfurt/Main, the University of Münster and the University of Passau. In total, the number of university collaborations between Thai and German higher education institutions has risen to over 160 in 2014, making Thailand the leading partner for German academia in Southeast Asia.

For more information about the DAAD, visit [www.daad.de](http://www.daad.de) and [www.daad.or.th](http://www.daad.or.th), or get in touch with the DAAD Information Centre in Bangkok directly:

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# 2014 House of Representatives General Election in Japan

by Nobuyuki Sato, Ph.D. in Law

## Introduction

On Sunday, December 14, 2014, the 47th general election of the members of the House of Representatives of Japan was held. As a result, two governing parties including the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP; conservative party<sup>1</sup>) headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Komei Party<sup>2</sup> led by Natsuo Yamaguchi, have successfully kept their government. This brief note will try to show (1) the basic framework of the general election, (2) the background of this general election, and (3) the results and analysis of some related issues from both political and legal viewpoints.

## Basic Framework of the General Election in Japan

Japan is a country that operates under the “Westminster system,” i.e., a parliamentary-cabinet system of government. The Diet (national parliament of Japan) is composed of two elective houses, which are the House of Councillors (HC) and the House of Representatives (HR). Under the Constitution of Japan (CoJ), although both houses are sharing legislative power, the HR has overriding power to the resolutions of the HC in some points, including nominating the Prime Minister<sup>3</sup>. In addition, only the HR is entitled to pass a non-confidence resolution to the Cabinet. From these legal authorities, the HR shall be treated as “Lower House” or “1st chamber.”

Members of the HR shall be elected with a four-year term. However, the Cabinet is able to dissolve the HR at any time. The general election of the member of the HR shall be proclaimed in cases of (a) termination of a four-year term, or (b)

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<sup>1</sup> Liberal Democratic Party was amalgamated of former “Liberal Party” and “Democratic Party” in 1955. Contrary to its name, LDP has been a conservative party.

<sup>2</sup> Komei Party was established in 1964 by a Buddhist faction.

<sup>3</sup> Article 67 of the CoJ reads as follows:

“(1) The Prime Minister shall be designated from among the members of the Diet by a resolution of the Diet. This designation shall precede all other business.

(2) If the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors disagree and if no agreement can be reached even through a joint committee of both Houses, provided for by law, or the House of Councilors fails to make designation within ten (10) days, exclusive of the period of recess, after the House of Representatives has made designation, the decision of the House of Representatives shall be the decision of the Diet.”



dissolution of the HR.

The number of seats in the HR is defined not in the CoJ but in the “Public Office Election Act” and changed from time to time. At this general election, 475 members have been elected by a parallel voting system – where 295 was elected from single-seat districts with the “first past the post” system, and 180 was elected from 11 proportional representation blocks.

## **Background**

In 2009, the Democratic Party (DP; liberal party) overwhelmingly won the 45<sup>th</sup> general election. The DP successfully retained 308 seats out of 480 seats and the LDP had 119 seats. After that, the DP had kept its government for 3 years. In November 2012, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda who was a leader of the DP decided to dissolve the HR, and the 46<sup>th</sup> general election was held in December. The LDP which was led by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe won with 294 seats out of 480. The Komei Party, which had been a partner party of the LDP since 1999, retained 31 seats. The DP retained only 57 seats. As a result, the LDP and Komei Party took over the reins of government with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Just after his appointment as Prime Minister, PM Abe and his government started “Abenomics” – which referred to a set of new economic policies which would adopt an inflation target as a means. With a strong popular backing for “Abenomics,” Abe’s government had implemented a series of conservative policies including introduction of “Act on the Protection of Specially Designated Secrets” of 2013, change of Cabinet’s official interpretation of article 9 of the CoJ concerning the right of collective defense in 2014, and others. Until November 2014, almost all Japanese including the mass media had believed that the next general election would be held in 2016 - at the termination of the four-year term of the members of the HR. However, PM Abe changed his strategy and dissolved the HR on November 21 and called the 47<sup>th</sup> general election.

PM Abe explained that the issue of this election was to have popular support to his political decision concerning suspension of the enforcement of consumption tax reform act that shall raise the rate from 8% to 10%. Opposition parties criticized this dissolution because almost all parties agreed on this suspension. They argued that no controversial political issue was put to the voters, and the real purpose of this general election was to have a wholesale and implied endorsement to hidden

controversial policies in advance.

## Results

Results by parties are showed in the chart. In sum, two governing parties won 326 seats (LDP 291 and Komei 35), and opposition parties and independents had only 154 seats (DP 73, Japan Innovation Party 41, Japanese Communist Party 21, The Party for Next Generations 2, People's Life Party 2, Social Democratic Party 2 and independent 8). Governing parties occupy 68.68% of seats.

As a strong effect of “first past the post” system, two governing parties successfully kept 78.64% seats from single-districts out of only 49.54% votes.

## Analysis from Viewpoint of Politics

From the viewpoint of politics, results give stable platform to the government for daily business. But it is not enough for constitutional amendments. Under the provisions of the CoJ, although simple majority shall be required to pass bills, budget and other resolutions including nominating the PM, two-thirds majority shall be required to call a national referendum for amending the CoJ<sup>4</sup>.

In the HC, governing parties have occupied 134 (LDP 114 and Komei 20) seats out of 242, i.e. 55.37%, and in the HR they successfully occupied 326 seats, i.e. more than two-thirds majority. However, governing parties do not have two-thirds majority in the HC and the LDP failed to keep two-thirds in the HR – the LDP occupied 61.26%. That means the LDP - PM Abe is able to propose a constitutional amendment only with Komei and other parties' support. On the other side, a right sided party, “The Party for the Next Generations” which is more conservative than the LDP, lost almost all seats (except only two), and liberal parties including the Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party increased their number of seats – DP 63 to 73, JCP 8 to 21. Although PM Abe could exercise his strong leadership for daily business including expanding “Abenomics” strategies, he should still struggle to propose a constitutional amendment.

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<sup>4</sup> Art. 96 reads as follows:

“(1) Amendments to this Constitution shall be initiated by the Diet, through a concurring vote of two-thirds or more of all the members of each House and shall thereupon be submitted to the people for ratification, which shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of all votes cast thereon, at a special referendum or at such election as the Diet shall specify.

(2) Amendments when so ratified shall immediately be promulgated by the Emperor in the name of the people, as an integral part of this Constitution.”

## Analysis from Viewpoint of Constitutional Law

From the constitutional viewpoint, I would like to raise two issues. The first issue is the meaning of the dissolution of the HR. In the CoJ, there is no clear provision to give a general authority of dissolution to the Cabinet. Only article 69 authorizes to dissolve the HR to the Cabinet when the HR passes a non-confidence resolution to the Cabinet<sup>5</sup>. A majority of constitutional academics agree on a general authority to dissolve the HR with some reservations because of the nature of the Westminster system. Main reservation is need for the explanation of reasons for the dissolution. One of reasons PM Abe explained about the purpose of this election was the evaluation of the tax reform suspension. However, many of the voters did not have a chance to vote on this point because almost all parties agreed with the suspension. Of course, according to commonly accepted interpretation, a need for explanation of reasons for the dissolution shall not be judicially applicable standard in the courts, but a constitutional-political burden to the Cabinet.

From a viewpoint of a comparative constitutional lawyer, the majority opinion shall be revisited. In the U.K. which is the root of the Westminster system, “Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011” was passed and came into effect in 2011. Under this act, dissolution of the House of Commons shall be done every five year with two exceptions – (a) the HC’s resolution of self-dissolution and (b) the HC’s non-confidence resolution to the Cabinet and fail to give a new confidence to current of new Cabinet. That is to say, the Cabinet has no discretionary power to dissolve the House of Commons any more than in the U.K. Interestingly, at the beginning stage of the CoJ, the official interpretation concerning the HR dissolution was consistent with this new U.K. legislation. We have to revisit this old and new problem.

Secondly, the malapportionment problem still exists. On November 20, 2013, the Supreme Court of Japan declared that there had been an unconstitutional (2.43 ratio) gap of voters’ population by electoral districts at the time of the 46th general election. But the Court avoided nullifying the results of the election. Although the Diet passed the electoral districts amendment act before the Supreme Court decision, the effect of the amendment was limited, and there was a 2.14 ratio gap of voters’ population by districts at the time of the 47th general election.

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<sup>5</sup> Art. 69 reads as follows:

“If the House of Representatives passes a non-confidence resolution, or rejects a confidence resolution, the Cabinet shall resign en masse, unless the House of Representatives is dissolved within ten (10) days.”

Just one day after the 47th general election, a group of lawyers brought constitutional suits covering all single-seat 295 districts arguing nulling results. They are emphasizing that if all members who were elected from single-seat districts lost their seats, the HR could keep its activities by 180 members who were elected from proportional representation blocks, because article 56 of the CoJ defines a quorum of one-thirds of members, i.e. 159 for the current Diet.

## Conclusion

Seemingly, PM Abe and his government seem to have a strong implied or wholesale support through this general election. However, they are facing some political and constitutional difficulties including a series of constitutional suits alleging the results of single-seat districts. Close attention shall be expected.

47th HR General Election in 2014 : Results by Parties

Party			Single-seat Districts				Proportional-representation Blocks				Total		Seats bef. Election	Diff.
	Name in English	Japanese Name	Votes	Rate - Votes	Seats	Rate - Seats	Votes	Rate - Votes	Seats	Rate - Seats	Seats	Rate - Seats		
Governing Parties	Liberal Democratic Party of Japan	Jiyu Minshu To	25461448.922	48.10%	223	75.59%	17,658,916	33.11%	68	37.78%	291	61.26%	295	-4
	Komei Party	Komei To	765390.000	1.45%	9	3.05%	7,314,236	13.71%	26	14.44%	35	7.37%	31	4
	Total: Governing Parties		26226838.922	49.54%	232	78.64%	24,973,152	46.82%	94	52.22%	326	68.63%	326	±0
Opposition Parties & Independent	Democratic Party of Japan	Minshu To	11916849.274	22.51%	38	12.88%	9,775,991	18.33%	35	19.44%	73	15.37%	63	10
	Japan Innovation Party	Ishin no Kai	4319645.823	8.16%	11	3.73%	8,382,699	15.72%	30	16.67%	41	8.63%	42	-1
	The Party for Next Generations	Jisedai no To	947395.994	1.79%	2	0.68%	1,414,919	2.65%	0	0.00%	2	0.42%	19	-17
	Japanese Communist Party	Nihon Kyosan To	7040169.793	13.30%	1	0.34%	6,062,962	11.37%	20	11.11%	21	4.42%	8	13
	People's Life Party	Seikatu no To	514575.000	0.97%	2	0.68%	1,028,721	1.93%	0	0.00%	2	0.42%	5	-3
	Social Democratic Party	Shakai Minshu To	419347.000	0.79%	1	0.34%	1,314,441	2.46%	1	0.56%	2	0.42%	2	±0
	New Renaissance Party	Shinto Kaikaku	-	-	-	-	16,597	0.03%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	±0
	Happiness Realization Party	Kofuku Jitugen To	-	-	-	-	260,111	0.49%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	±0
	No Affiliated Party	Shizi Seito Nashi	-	-	-	-	104,854	0.20%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	±0
	Misc.	Sono ta	43726.000	0.08%	0	0.00%	-	-	-	-	0	0.00%	0	±0
	Independent	Mu Shozoku	1511242.152	2.85%	8	2.71%	-	-	-	-	8	1.68%	15	-7
	Total: Opposition & Independent		26712951.036	50.46%	63	21.36%	28,361,295	53.18%	86	47.78%	149	31.37%	154	-5
Grand Total			52939789.958	100.00%	295	100.00%	53,334,447	100.00%	180	100.00%	475	100.00%	480	-5



# TestAS 2015

## About TestAS

The TestAS is offered by the Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e.V. (g.a.s.t. = Society for Academic Study Preparation and Test Development, a Registered Association). The TestAS is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.'

## TestAS Dates

### Wed., 4 March 2015

Registration period: 10 November 2014 -19 January 2015

### Sat., 18 April 2015

Registration period: 2 February - 9 March 2015

### Sat., 10 October 2015

Registration period: 1 June - 24 August 2015

Each TestAS examination comprises an Online Language Test, a Core Test and a Subject Specific Module. When registering, candidates choose one of the four Subject Specific Modules:

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- Economics

**Thailand Test Center:** German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence  
for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG) at Faculty  
of Law, Thammasat University.

**Registration & more information at [www.testas.de](http://www.testas.de)**

# ASEAN Countries' National Days

- **January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Independence Day of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and National Day came 10 days after the Full Moon Day of the month of Tazaungmone (November-December) – National Day

- **February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

National Day of Nation of Brunei

- **June 12<sup>th</sup>**

Independence Day of The Republic of the Philippines

- **August 9<sup>th</sup>**

National Day of Singapore

- **August 17<sup>th</sup>**

Independence Day of The Republic of Indonesia

- **August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Merdeka (Independence) Day of The Kingdom of Malaysia and September 16 - Malaysia Day

- **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

National Day of The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

- **November 9<sup>th</sup>**

Independence Day of The Kingdom of Cambodia

- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

National Day of The Lao People's Democratic Republic

- **December 5<sup>th</sup>**

King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday, The Kingdom of Thailand

# Notification

**Dr. Michael H. Nelson** is providing material collected from Thai and English language newspapers dealing with the National Reform Council and the Constitution Drafting Committee in Thailand. Please visit our webpage at [www.cpg-onlin.de](http://www.cpg-onlin.de).

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